Amendment to the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following rewritten paragraph:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Improved techniques for representation of Java string objects are disclosed. The techniques can be implemented to create Java string objects as arrays of one-byte characters when it is appropriate. To create Java string objects, an enhanced constructor can be provided in a Java library that is available to application programs (or programmers). In addition, enhanced Java methods can also be provided in the Java library. An array representation flag can optionally be allocated in the Java string object representation. The array representation flag can indicate whether the Java string object is allocated as an array of one-byte or an array of two-byte characters. Alternatively, the element type of the array can be referenced by using one or more references to determine whether the Java string object has been allocated as an array of one-byte or as an array of two-byte characters.